

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A voice activity detector that detects talkspurts in a given signal at a high accuracy, so as to improve the quality of voice communication. A frequency spectrum calculator calculates frequency spectrum of a given input signal. A flatness evaluator evaluates the flatness of this power spectrum by, for example, calculating the average of power spectral components and then adding up the differences between those components and the average. The resultant sum of differences, in this case, is used as a flatness factor of the spectrum. A voice/noise discriminator determines whether the input signal contains a talkspurt or not, by comparing the flatness factor of the frequency spectrum with a predetermined threshold.